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(20.53), and in nearly the same proportion is the modern low (20.09).

9. The occurrence of one root is more frequent in the lower modern (31.51), then in the ancient (30.36), and least in the modern high (20.10).

10. I have been able to find in one of the modern higher skulls a rare case—a tooth with five roots.

11. In the lower jaw of all races the third molar nearly always has two roots—91.84 in the modern low, 81.53 in the modern high, and 81.84 in the ancient.

12. I have not found in the modern low, nor in the ancient, a case of a lower third molar with four roots, whilst in the higher it stands 0.597.

13. The occurrence of only one root in the lower third molar is by no means rare, and is found more frequently in the ancient skulls (12.35), less frequently in the modern high (9.38), and most rarely in the modern low (6.12).

14. Cases of the lower third molar having three roots are not lacking, and are more frequently met with in the modern high (8.50), then in the ancient (6.17), and least in the modern low (2.54).

15. That there is witnessed in some cases a lack of one or more of the third molars is an ethnic fact.

16. The dogmatical assertions of Owen upon the number of roots in the negro races and the whites are therefore false, and the morphology of the roots of the third molar has no appreciable connection with evolution.

A remarkable addition to ethnological literature is a revision of Sir Gardiner Wilkinson's "Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians," by Dr. Samuel Birch, and published by Murray, London.

GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

EXTINCT MAMMALIA OF OREGON.—A list of *Mammalia* from the Miocene of Oregon was published in the December number of the NATURALIST, p. 833. Since that time, Prof. Cope has determined the characters of a number of additional species, some of which are new to science. Two of them belong to a new genus of *Carnivora*, whose cranial form is that of *Putorius* or *Lutra*, and which unites the premolar formula $\frac{3}{3}$ with the two superior tuberculars of *Canis*. It is called *Enhydrocyon*, with two species, *E. stenocephaus* and *E. basilatus*. A remarkable primitive type of *Artiodactyla* combining characters of Ruminants and Suillines with only two metacarpal bones in each foot, is named *Boöchœrus*. The only species, *B. humerosus*, is as large as the Indian rhinoceros. A new ruminant is *Poëbrotherium sternbergii*. From the Loup Fork beds are *Lutrictis ? lycopotamicus*, and a new species of *Protolabis*, which is named *P. transmontanus*. The article appears in the current number of the Bulletin of the Hayden Survey.

THE NECKS OF THE SAUROPTERYGIA.—It is known that the length of the neck in the Plesiosauroid reptiles of North America diminished in length as the group approached the period of extinction. Thus the longest necks in the order, those of the species of *Elasmosaurus*, are seen in the Niobrara (No. 3) division of the cretaceous. In the Pierre formation (No. 4), we find the shorter-necked *Elasmosauri*, and the *Cimoliasauri* with still shorter necks. In the latest cretaceous (Fox Hills or No. 5), the neck is reduced to its most abbreviated proportions, in the genus *Uronautes.* This shortening of the neck is thus associated with the shallowing of the water, which, as we know, gradually succeeded the deep-sea period of the Niobrara. In Europe the history of the order during the Jurassic period was the same. During the deep-sea epoch of the Lias we have the typical *Plesiosauri* represented by the long-necked *P. dolichodirus;* the shallower Oxford and Kimmeridge seas were the range of the shorter-necked *Murænosaurus;* while *Pliosaurus*, with the shortest neck, was cotemporary with these, and remained as late as the Portland. It is true, that long-necked forms continued as late as the Kimmeridge in England (*Colymbosaurus*). It has yet to be ascertained whether the European cretaceous Sauropterygia present the succession seen in those of North America.—*E. D. Cope.*

THE SCALES OF LIODON.—Professor Snow, of Lawrence, Kansas, has recently observed the scales of the abdominal surface of *Liodon dyspelor.* He states them to be smaller than those of the rattlesnake. Prof. Snow has also obtained a complete fore-limb of this species, and gives a figure of it in the Kansas City *Review of Science and Industry.*

THE FOSSIL INSECTS OF THE GREEN RIVER SHALES.—Mr. S. H. Scudder gives a series of descriptions of the insects obtained from the shales near Green River City, Wyoming, in the 4th volume of the *Bulletin* of the Hayden Survey. They represent the orders as follows: *Hymenoptera*, 4 sp.; *Diptera*, 14; *Coleoptera*, 37; *Hemiptera*, 12; *Orthoptera*, 2; *Neuroptera*, 2; total, 71. Then there are a few species of *Myriapoda* and *Arachnida.* Two new generic types of *Diptera* and one of *Hemiptera* are described.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.[1]

THE SWEDISH ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—In the year 1556 Burrough discovered the strait leading into the Kara Sea, between Novaya Zemlya and the island of Waigatz; and in 1580 Pett sailed through the channel which separates Waigatz from the mainland, into the sea, where his further progress was barred by the ice. In 1595 the famous Dutch explorer, Willem Barentz, also reached the entrance to the sea. During the last century the Russians made several attempts to cross the sea, and in 1738 expeditions reached

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[1] Edited by ELLIS H. YARNALL, Philadelphia.